(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of small and big courier companies at present which have been given licence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Amendment to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 is under consideration but that amendment is not aimed at checking the increasing competition faced by Postal Department in view of the expanding network of courier companies.

(b) The amendment to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 has not been finalized so far, therefore, the details can not be furnished at this stage. The existing legislation does not provide for licensing of courier companies. Hence, no licence has been given to either small or big courier companies.

Legislation and guidelines for phone tapping

2146. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the legislation under which phone-tapping is allowed by Government;

(b) the salient features of the existing provisions;

(c) whether any fresh guidelines have been issued in the matter of phone-tapping;

(d) the sections under which these guidelines have been issued; and

(e) the details of these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per sub-section 2 of section 5 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 on the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of the public safety, the Central Government or a State Government or any officer specially authorized in this behalf by the Central Government or a State Government may, if satisfied that is it necessary or expendient so to do in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offence, for reasons to be recorded in writing, by order, direct that any message or class of

messages to or from any person or class of persons, or relating to any particular subject, brought for transmission by or transmitted or received by any telegraph, shall not be transmitted, or shall be intercepted or detained, or shall be disclosed to the Government making the order or an officer thereof mentioned in the order.

(c) to (e) with a view to ensuring privacy of communications and at the same time providing interception facilities to the security agencies, the Government asked the telecom service licensees who have been granted licences under section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, to take various steps which *inter-alia* include the following:

For Telephone Companies:

* To issue acknowledgment letters to Security Agencies within two hours of the receipt of communication.
* To put in place of adequate and effective internal checks within their organizations.
* To have designated officers to receive the communication.
* Such communication to be handled by fairly senior level officers.

For Security Agencies:

* Only designated officers to convey the instructions for interception.
* Designated officers of the Security Agencies to deliver the letters to Service Providers.
* In emergent cases of carrying out interception.
* Post confirmation from the Competent Authority is to be provided within seven days of the issue of the orders of interception in emergent cases.

Setting up of IT park in Goa

2147. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Goa propose to establish an Information Technology park in the State;